

# **State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Public Safety Alaska State Troopers Budget Request Unit Budget Summary**

## **Alaska State Troopers Budget Request Unit**

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### **BRU Mission**

The mission of the Division of Alaska State Troopers is to preserve the public peace and to protect life and property.

(Note: The Division of Alaska State Troopers consists of three closely interrelated BRUs: Alaska State Troopers, AST Detachments and the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program. Much of the following discussion applies to elements in all three BRUs.)

### **BRU Services Provided**

The Alaska State Troopers provide primary public safety services to most of the geographic area of the state and limited service in all areas of the state including those areas also served by a local law enforcement entity.

AST has five distinct geographical regions, known as Detachments. "A" Detachment covers Southeast Alaska with the headquarters located in Ketchikan with posts in Haines, Juneau, Klawock and Petersburg. "B" Detachment encompasses Southcentral Alaska with headquarters located in Palmer with posts in Big Lake, Glennallen and Talkeetna. "C" Detachment covers Western Alaska and the Aleutian Chain with headquarters located in Anchorage with posts in Aniak, Bethel, Dillingham, King Salmon, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome and St. Mary's. "D" Detachment covers Northern Alaska with headquarters in Fairbanks with posts in Cantwell, Delta Junction, Galena, Healy, Nenana, Northway and Tok. "E" Detachment covers the Kenai Peninsula with headquarters in Soldotna with posts in Cooper Landing, Girdwood, Homer, Ninilchik and Seward.

While many municipalities across the state have elected to provide local police service, the Troopers are the only agency in the state statutorily mandated to provide police services. Those services include:

- 1) Criminal law enforcement and investigation - Troopers respond to all levels of criminal law violations either reported to them or otherwise discovered by them. The occurrences are investigated, documented and presented to the Department of Law for prosecution when sufficient information is established to identify persons responsible. Troopers investigate criminal violations at all levels of complexity, from the simplest vandalism to the most complex homicides and fraud cases including complex drug and alcohol investigations. In order to provide those services, Troopers must maintain expertise in all aspects of criminal investigation. AST investigators often provide service to the municipalities that have a local police department but no expertise in some areas of criminal investigation.
- 2) Traffic law enforcement and investigation - Troopers provide active traffic law enforcement and traffic crash investigation throughout many parts of the state including all major state highways as well as in the rural areas of the state. In addition to providing these services in the primary areas of responsibility, Troopers provide technical crash investigation expertise and support to many of the local law enforcement agencies across the state. Traffic law enforcement includes enforcement of traditional motor vehicle laws as well as aircraft, watercraft, snow-machine and off road recreational vehicle laws.
- 3) Search and rescue - Troopers are also the only agency in the state statutorily mandated to provide search and rescue services. Unlike criminal and traffic law enforcement and investigation where Troopers provide some technical expertise and support to areas that have their own police departments, search and rescue services are the exclusive domain of the Troopers regardless of location. In this particular area, as in the court services area, the roles are somewhat reversed where troopers receive some assistance from local agencies but are responsible for the function even in the municipalities. Search and rescue services include responding to rescue situations, conducting searches, coordinating various agencies and private persons involved in search efforts, funding aircraft, provision and logistical needs, and providing technical expertise in the various aspects of search and rescue such as planning, canine utilization, mountain rescue and others.
- 4) Court services - as with the search and rescue function, Troopers are statutorily mandated to provide service to the court system throughout the state. Court services include providing courtroom and court facility security, transporting and guarding prisoners, serving the numerous and varying types of court process, and carrying out the general needs of

the courts. The major courts in the state are served by a combination of Troopers and Court Service Officers while Troopers serve the other areas. Some local police agencies provide limited court services that generally does not include process service.

5) Sex offender registration - Troopers maintain Alaska's central Sex Offender Registry (SOR) program. This program tracks the status of over 4,200 sex offenders in the state. In addition, the SOR program provides current information on sex offenders, free of charge to any member of the public who wants it. The information is made available at any Trooper office and most police departments as well as being available over the Internet. The SOR office also provides state and local law enforcement agencies with investigative information concerning sex offenders who have either refused to comply with the registration laws or who have gone out of compliance with the laws. The information is supplied as part of a coordinated effort to apprehend and criminally charge sex offenders who are in violation of the registration requirements.

6) Civilian Process Server and Security Guard licensing - Troopers administer the licensing programs for Civilian Process Servers (CPS), Security Guards, and Security Guard agencies. Currently licensed are 34 Security Guard agencies with approximately 1,150 active Security Guards - both armed and unarmed, and approximately 69 Civilian Process Services. A monthly average of 96 Security Guard and 9 CPS license applications (new, renewal) are processed, each requiring a background investigation and review of delinquent Student Loans before issuance of the license. Additionally, AST reviews state and federal criminal justice responses to every new application, and processes a monthly average of 30 CPS and 390 Security Guard actions including complaints, transfers, status change requests, insurance reviews, and weapons qualification (for security guards only).

7) Alaska Concealed Handgun Permit (ACHP) Program - Troopers administer Alaska's concealed handgun permit program. From July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, AST issued 2,046 permits. AST processed a monthly average of 171 new applications and 126 renewal applications, each requiring a background investigation before issuance of the permit. Additionally, AST reviews state and federal criminal justice responses to every new application, and process a yearly average of 102 replacement requests, 95 address changes, and 29 Instructor applications. AST monitors a monthly average of 177 domestic violence protective order notices and 50 criminal history updates that may result in permit suspension or revocation.

## **BRU Goals and Strategies**

The goal of the Troopers is to provide quality public safety service to the people of Alaska, so that they are confident in the Troopers' willingness and ability to respond to their needs. The Troopers maintain 34 posts across the state and provide all public safety services to the vast majority of the state's geographic area. Troopers provide these services in all areas not served by a local police department. The area served by AST includes over 200 rural communities, as well as many urban communities. Additionally, Troopers provide court services and other specialized enforcement and emergency services in all areas of the state including those communities otherwise served by a local police department. While Troopers provide some services to every person in the state, they provide direct public safety services to over 200,000 Alaska citizens. The main goal of the division is to protect and serve the public. This will be accomplished by taking action to:

- Handle more than 83,000 criminal offenses in AST jurisdiction.
- Respond to more than 3,800 motor vehicle accidents.
- Perform over 43,900 transports of prisoners with no escapes.
- Save or assist over 365 people through Search and Rescue efforts.
- Investigate over 2,700 drug and alcohol importation related crimes.
- Solve 100% of the homicides that occur within AST jurisdiction.
- Serve or close over 10,200 warrants.
- Serve or close over 35,630 writs.
- Continue systematic sex offender registration compliance checks.
- Continue DNA sampling compliance efforts.
- Develop .08 DWI education and enforcement program.
- Implement and continue seatbelt education programs.
- Develop and implement helmet and personal floatation device programs in rural Alaska.
- Increase the ratio of Burglary cases closed by arrest or referred to the District Attorney's Office for review.

### **Key BRU Issues for FY2002 – 2003**

**INADEQUATE STAFF IN RELATION TO THE POPULATION SERVED** - The public and other agency expectations for the services provided by AST continues to steadily increase while the resources available to provide those services have been maintained at status quo. In FY2002, the Alaska State Troopers have a commissioned staff of 244 personnel located in 32 posts, which provide all public safety services to the vast majority of the state's geographical area. AST staffing strength is less than half the 2.5 full-time officers per 1,000 population average for all law enforcement agencies nationwide. While AST provides some services to every person in the state, they are the only providers of direct public safety services to over 200,000 Alaska citizens.

**TERRORISM AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION** – The Alaska State Troopers continue to staff and supervise the Statewide Criminal Intelligence Unit located at the Anchorage FBI office. Additionally, Troopers remain actively involved in contingency planning and preparedness issues in concert with other government agencies as well as with private industry. AST staffing concerns are magnified with the additional obligations inherent in attempting to address these enormously important issues.

**COURT SECURITY** - The number of Court Services Officers (CSOs) located around the state is inadequate to properly provide court security, move prisoners, and serve court writs. Since the development of the CSO program as a cost-effective method of the statutorily mandated support of the Court System, the number of CSO positions has not kept pace with the increase in criminal and civil cases, and the increase in number of judges or courts to be served.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** - The detachments are responding to a variety of special events without additional resources, these events range from "raves", various music events, State Fair, backcountry sporting events, and the arctic man event. These events have placed a significant burden on detachment and statewide law enforcement, crowd control and crowd-related problems.

**RECRUITMENT** - Like most other jurisdictions, qualified trooper candidates are becoming more difficult to find. Additional funding is required for recruitment efforts through prime time advertisement if AST is to maintain its commissioned strength.

**ALASKA'S RATES** - Alaska's rates of rape and domestic violence are among the highest in the nation.

### **Major BRU Accomplishments in 2001**

**MAJOR INVESTIGATIVE CASES** – The Alaska State Troopers investigated thirteen murders, which occurred within AST jurisdiction during FY01. Eight of these murders occurred within the rural communities of Koyukuk (2), Manakotak (2), Nulato, Chauthabaluk, Homer and Sutton. Five of the murders occurred in more urban areas such as Anchorage (within a state correctional facility), North Pole, Fairbanks and Wasilla. All thirteen of these murders have been resolved for a 100% clearance rate.

**ILLEGAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT** – Troopers have continued to take the lead role in the coordinated effort to investigate and enforce laws concerning drug and alcohol crimes. Interdiction efforts to stem the flow of alcohol to western Alaska have met with continued success. Additionally, the Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team was responsible for the seizure of more than 80 pounds of cocaine imported into the state during FY01.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** – Troopers expanded the scope of their domestic violence investigations training for law enforcement to include dispatchers and call takers. The troopers continue to support and promote the multidisciplinary response to sexual assault by sponsoring Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training. Approximately 85 persons attended the five-day training in Nome. Two Commissioner's Directives were developed and disseminated to all DPS commissioned personnel specific to domestic violence. The Directives are in regards to full faith and credit for foreign domestic violence protective orders and officers involved in or having knowledge of criminal domestic violence.

**SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION** - Mail out verifications continue in this program. Municipal police departments, the Department of Corrections and trooper detachments are supplied with a monthly list, either electronically, via a paper mailing or a CD-ROM, that lists the total database of sex offenders that are registered and in compliance, those requiring registration and those out of compliance. Updates of the forms are also in this monthly mailing. There are now over 4,200 convicted sex offenders in the database. The Department's Sex Offender Registry website has been upgraded making the public information site easier to use and faster to navigate.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.) - The Alaska State Troopers are the representative agency for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in Alaska and provide D.A.R.E. training to all federal, state, city and borough police officers. The state coordinator, an AST Sergeant, did all planning, coordinating, training and certifying of D.A.R.E. officers in Alaska. The coordinator prepares budgets, writes grants, raises donations, maintains training records of all D.A.R.E. officers in Alaska, prepares reports for federal and state agencies, D.A.R.E. America, and the D.A.R.E. regional training center. In all, eighty-one officers received basic or specialty training during the year. The sergeant/coordinator retired in April 2001. The coordinator's duties and responsibilities have been assumed by D.A.R.E. Alaska, Inc., a non-profit organization established to manage the D.A.R.E. program in Alaska.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING – The ongoing training of approximately one half of the Division was accomplished during FY01. Necessary certifications such as use of force and other professional training were presented in various locations around the state. Continuing this in-service schedule each year allows for 40 hours of continuing education for all Troopers every other year.

RURAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORT - Troopers from VPSO Support and Detachments accomplished the following in FY01: 1,353 VPSO visits, 712 Village Police Officer (VPOs) visits/contacts (VPOs are employed by some rural villages), 1,013 investigative visits to villages, 727 overnight visits were accomplished, and 799 Training hours conducted by Oversight Troopers.

SPECIAL EVENTS - During the past year, all Detachments have conducted several special patrol activities in the detachment area. Those activities include: several Construction Zone Patrols for the Department of Transportation; Big Lake boat patrol with the U.S. Coast Guard; an extensive seatbelt enforcement program, consisting of two troopers working three days a week for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening; and increased patrol for the Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival, Palmer State Fair, and two Raves in the area.

# Alaska State Troopers

## BRU Financial Summary by Component

*All dollars in thousands*

	General Funds	FY2001 Actuals Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	FY2002 Authorized Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	FY2003 Governor Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula</b>												
<b>Expenditures</b>												
None.												
<b>Non-Formula</b>												
<b>Expenditures</b>												
Special Projects	0.0	1,051.2	116.7	1,167.9	0.0	2,954.7	468.9	3,423.6	0.0	3,084.6	447.2	3,531.8
Criminal	2,824.1	0.0	12.4	2,836.5	3,115.4	0.0	0.0	3,115.4	3,158.5	0.0	0.0	3,158.5
Investigations Bureau												
Director's Office	763.9	0.0	4.3	768.2	668.9	0.0	0.0	668.9	772.5	0.0	0.0	772.5
Judicial	1,957.8	0.0	40.6	1,998.4	1,893.4	0.0	53.0	1,946.4	2,055.3	0.0	79.5	2,134.8
Services- Anchorage												
Prisoner	1,554.5	0.0	43.3	1,597.8	1,476.7	0.0	0.0	1,476.7	1,546.7	0.0	45.0	1,591.7
Transportation												
Search and	321.1	0.0	0.0	321.1	283.1	0.0	50.0	333.1	1,138.7	0.0	0.0	1,138.7
Rescue												
Rural Trooper	283.6	0.0	449.9	733.5	253.2	0.0	435.1	688.3	359.0	0.0	458.9	817.9
Housing												
Narcotics Task	371.8	2,258.7	7.1	2,637.6	445.7	2,770.9	0.0	3,216.6	456.4	2,799.9	0.0	3,256.3
Force												
Commercial	0.0	0.0	87.4	87.4	0.0	0.0	90.4	90.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vehicle												
Enforcement												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,076.8</b>	<b>3,309.9</b>	<b>761.7</b>	<b>12,148.4</b>	<b>8,136.4</b>	<b>5,725.6</b>	<b>1,097.4</b>	<b>14,959.4</b>	<b>9,487.1</b>	<b>5,884.5</b>	<b>1,030.6</b>	<b>16,402.2</b>

## Alaska State Troopers

## Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

\$750.0 GF is requested for avalanche warning and public education.

\$110.0 Fed is requested for a statewide DARE Coordinator and Clerk.

\$85.0 GF is request for federal grant compliance and on-site monitoring.

## Alaska State Troopers

## Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

## From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>8,136.4</b>	<b>5,725.6</b>	<b>1,097.4</b>	<b>14,959.4</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Special Projects	0.0	19.9	-21.7	-1.8
-Criminal Investigations Bureau	20.7	0.0	0.0	20.7
-Director's Office	18.6	0.0	0.0	18.6
-Judicial Services-Anchorage	115.6	0.0	1.5	117.1
-Search and Rescue	50.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0
-Rural Trooper Housing	0.8	0.0	23.8	24.6
-Narcotics Task Force	10.7	29.0	0.0	39.7
-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	0.0	0.0	-90.4	-90.4
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Special Projects	0.0	110.0	0.0	110.0
-Criminal Investigations Bureau	22.4	0.0	0.0	22.4
-Director's Office	85.0	0.0	0.0	85.0
-Judicial Services-Anchorage	46.3	0.0	25.0	71.3
-Prisoner Transportation	70.0	0.0	45.0	115.0
-Search and Rescue	805.6	0.0	0.0	805.6
-Rural Trooper Housing	105.0	0.0	0.0	105.0
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>9,487.1</b>	<b>5,884.5</b>	<b>1,030.6</b>	<b>16,402.2</b>